

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Council Work Session
June 03, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 pm in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Shattuck, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mayor John Thompson and President McCarthy-Johnson. Amanda Ford, Interim Borough Manager. (Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Garrett, and solicitor were absent.) A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance led by President McCarthy-Johnson, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PRESENTATION

Jerry Gaudi from Chamber of Commerce made a presentation about crosswalk design for Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market (previously Wilkinsburg Farmers Market). Jason McCoy, a graphic artist, presented design details for Penn Ave and Ross St.
Consensus to move forward on crosswalk design

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Chad Thomas from 408 Hampton Ave, support tax abatements to help develop the Wilkinsburg area.
- 2) Paul Dorsey, 901 Hill Ave, no response to tax problem
 - Need tax help
 - Need someone to clean up surrounding properties

Resolution: contact M B M Collections

Resolution: DPW and voluntaries have cleaned properties, report to 911 to have on file

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approving Resolution 15-033 – Use of South Avenue Parking Lot for the Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Grannemann

A vote in favor of the motion, 7 - 0. Motion carried.

2. Approving Resolution 15-034 – Street closure for Ethnan Temple’s Blessing of the Bikes.

Moved: Ms. Shattuck

Second: Ms. Moore

A vote in favor of the motion, 7 - 0. Motion carried.

3. Approving Resolution 15-035 – Appointing Jared Manzo to serve a three-year term on the Shade Tree Committee.

Moved: Ms. Moore

Second: Ms. Macklin

A vote in favor of the motion, 7 - 0. Motion carried.

4. Discussion regarding Elder Drew Gordon of Covenant Fellowship Church, requesting Council’s support for the 9th Annual Wilkinsburg Clean-Up-Day—Triangle Park area

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Moore

A vote in favor of the motion, 7 - 0. Motion carried.

5. Council Committee Reports:

- **Administration Committee – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair**
 - Committee did not meet for month of May
- **Budget and Finance Committee – Michael Lefebvre – Chair**
 - Update by Mr. Egler and Ms. Moore: on May 8, 2015 discussed financial report, pending registration letters went out and Bond issue (how to use monies) / next meeting June 12, 2015 @ 10:00 am
- **Capital Planning/Econ Development and Revitalization Committee – Patrick Shattuck, Chair**

- Repair work started on decorative street light poles / some poles rotted and needs replacement
- Recommendations for paving various streets and replacing some street signs
- Discussed schematics for total remodel of Whitney Park
- Discussed next steps for traffic study, may consider outside fund raising
- **Civic Sector and Constituent/Business Outreach Committee – Pamela Macklin, Chair**
 - Did not meet / next meeting will be June 10, 2015
- **Community Relations/Special Events – Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Chair**
 - Next meeting June 11, 2015, at 3:30 pm
- **Hiring Committee – Eugenia Moore, Chair**
 - Completed 4 interviews, continuing to interview applicants
- **Personnel Committee – Paige Trice, Chair**
 - Working on police manual, next meeting June 17, 2015 (closed meeting)
- **Public Safety Committee – Kate Grannemann, Chair**
 - Red Cross offering free smoke detectors
 - Reorganizing fire disaster team

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Yvonne James, 712 Wood Street
 - Supports the Tax Abatement program
2. Paula Brewer, 608 Whitney Avenue
 - Supports the Tax Abatement program
3. Tracey Evans, WCDC – 14 Whitney Avenue
 - Supports the Tax Abatement program
 - Would like to set date and time for report
4. Kate Luxemburg, 432 Rebecca Avenue
 - Refuse collection
 - Private dog parks

OLD BUSINESS

Liquor License Referendum vote
 *Review ordinance

NEW BUSINESS

- Permit Application Requests:
 - Grindware Youth League - Application denied
 - MADDAD's Fatherhood Celebration
- Temporary Tax Abatement and Tax Compromise Program process
- Carol Harris Staffing, LLC/Temp Services- Marva LaMar (interviewed for Clerk/Secretary temporary duties)
- Consensus to move forward with Duquesne light pilot program on Pennwood Street
- Whitney Tunnel – repairs and repaint
- Received grant for another security camera
- Pothole at Elvia Way
- Wilkinsburg Borough family festival at Hunter Park
- Busway tunnel – debris falling; call Norfolk Southern to resolve
- Stoner Way – code enforcement to cite for garbage along alley
- Pothole issues
- Summary and recap on vacant home tour

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President McCarthy-Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President Council